

23 August 69
1:00 AM

Dear Hal,

Regret being so slow in responding...have been rather hard pressed past several weeks & have not kept up with things.

My remark (in a June letter) re: Dulles/Eden personality clash—I meant John Foster, rather than Allen, who is said to have expressed the view you mention re: fascism. The lack of rapport between J.F. and Eden very likely, as I see it, was responsible for the ill-fated Suez invasion by British-French-Israeli forces. And the split in the Anglo-American alliance was of course widened. The split had begun with British recognition of Mao's China without consulting U.S. Further, you'll recall J.F. Dulles wanted British support for his plan to intervene with military forces in Indo-China. Eden refused to support him...and Dulles never forgave him for it.

And your remarks about New Orleans are almost identical with conclusions Brandy & I drew. A kind of "suspension of judgement" (Brandy's phrase) that one may at first mistake for sophistication...but which soon is recognized as a sort of voluntary ennui. As you say, many people go to N.O. (the French Quarter, that is) to have done with the world. A popular saying in the Quarter when I lived there was "Nobody who lives here in the Quarter need ever worry about starving, no matter how bad his luck runs." Right. But you better not have any ideals, either, because the Quarter won't allow them: that's the price for "never having to worry about starving." And yet if you are your own man and do not become, in spirit, a part of the "in" group...the Quarter can be fascinating for the short haul. It still haunts me, Hal, and I know I will go back someday...but not to stay.

My friend, please take better care. The general description you give does indeed sound like (in the absence of any physical disorder) an acute anxiety reaction. The equanimity should help, but a vacation would probably be better. Anyway, find a doctor whose intelligence & judgement you can respect and do as he advises. I think Nemiah's Foundations of Psychopathology will be of interest to you—I'm sending along a copy I found here the other day (you needn't bother returning it), BUT please keep in mind that NOBODY can be his own psychiatrist. And it is a mistake to try. I mean it. Nemiah writes pretty well, has read beyond the anatomy books he used in med school, includes a useful glossary and an annotated bibliography. Let me know what you make of it if you do decide to read it.

I see the current issue of Look has a story on "The Jolly Green Giant" (who is, we learn, a bad guy & also nuts) and Mr. Clay Shaw (who is, we are assured, a well-meaning, friendly fella who never harmed nobody noways but was victimized by a D.A. who has friends in the Mafia). And so it goes: more & more trees to further obscure the forest.....

Cheers, & remember what I say about taking care of H.W. !

*Enclosed is clip
on Ray —*

Paul